

## Remarks

The present application is a continuation of application number 10/167,606 (the Parent Application) wherein several claims were cancelled for the purpose of obtaining immediate allowance. The subject matter of those cancelled claims is further pursued in the present application.

The Examiner indicated in the August 27, 2003 Office Action Summary of the Parent Application that certain claims were objected to but did not explain that objection in the Detailed Action. In a subsequent telephone interview with John C. Grieger on March 19, 2004, Examiner Jaworski indicated those objected claims would be allowable if redrafted into independent form.

Applicants submit herewith a preliminary amendment adding new claims 2-32 of which claims 9, 17 and 25 are independent claims. Claim 1, as originally filed, is also in independent form.

Independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 represent the objected claims of the Parent Application redrafted into independent form with all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, applicants contend the presently redrafted independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are allowable. Dependent claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-24 and 26-32, as further limitations of those independent claims, are allowable for at least the reasons discussed with regard to the independent claims. The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to pass the application to immediate issue.

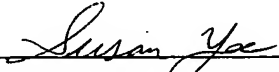
Applicants also submit herewith an *Information Disclosure Statement* in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. The references cited in this statement are the same as those identified in the Parent Application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' undersigned representative with any questions if he believes it would facilitate examination and expedient allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Y.L. Mo et al.

May 21, 2004

By:

  
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